



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Numeric Effluent Limits – Comments on Blue Ribbon Panel report posted –

The *Storm Water Panel of Experts* met in September 2005 and issued their recommendations earlier this year. The comments submitted for the September public meetings as well as the comments submitted on the report are now posted. Nearly 100 comments were submitted altogether including those by Caltrans. Those commenting ranged from industries to Regional Boards.

The San Francisco Bay Area Regional Board, for example, concurred that numeric effluent limits based on pollutant concentration were infeasible for municipal storm water discharges but suggested that alternative forms of numeric measures could be used. The Board proposed tracking the amounts of new impervious surface created and treatment provided, the amount of impervious surfaces retrofitted with treatment, and the dry weather flows diverted to sewage treatment plants. Blue Ribbon report posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/numericcom.html>

In related news, representatives from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) met in Los Angeles with representative from environmental groups to discuss CASQA's proposed 4-stage process for bringing storm water into compliance with water quality standards. Posted: http://www.casqa.org/CASQA%20Progressive%20Approach_09-01-06.pdf

Tortoises and Culverts – Smoothed riprap eases travel - Several Caltrans projects are featured on the FHWA website showing simple projects that aid wildlife. One of these involved smoothing riprap with gravel to make it easier and safer for Desert Tortoises to access culverts. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifeProtection/>

Upcoming –

- *CASQA – Second Annual Conference* – Sept. 25 – 27; Sacramento; one day of workshops, 2 days of presentations; more information: <http://stormwaterconference.com/theme/>
- *SF Regional Board field trip - Water quality effects of urbanization, watershed science, and stream protection* (re: Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy - see *NewsFlash* 06-27) Oct. 5, 9:30 - 12:30; contact Ben Livsey at (510) 622-2308 or BLivsey@waterboards.ca.gov
Information on proposed policy: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/streamandwetlands.htm>
- *Webcasts - Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management: Design, Construction and Maintenance, Parts I and II* – by Izaak Walton League, Thursday, October 26 & Thursday, December 7, (this is a change); Register: <http://www.iwla.org/index.php?id=169>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>